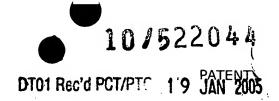
PC10483US





IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No: Applicants:

Not Yet Known Peter Drott et al.

Filed:

Herewith

Title:

SEALING COLLAR

T.C./A.U.: Examiner:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (RP) submitted herewith. A copy of the references listed on the 1449 form, other than U.S. patents, is enclosed.

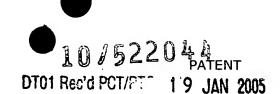
Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

References 2, 3, 4, and 5 are not in the English language, but an English translation thereof is attached to the copy of each reference submitted herewith.

All of these references were cited by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the search report, indicating the degree of relevance determined by the foreign patent office is submitted herewith. MPEP Section 609A(3), second paragraph.

PC10483US



This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the abovereferenced application.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert P. Seitter, Reg. No. 24,856

Ellen E. Fielitz, Reg. No. 54,746 Attorneys for Applicants

Attorneys for

RPS/EEF/krh

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449

(4) References

International Search Report

Dated: January 19, 2005

P.O. Box 980

Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980

(610) 407-0700

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I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Kathleen Lips



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Approved for use through 7/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

PTO/SB/08a (08-03) (AW 10/2003)

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Complete if Known Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO Application Number INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Herewith Filing Date STATEMENT BY APPLICANT First Named Inventor Peter Drott (Use as many sheets as necessary) Art Unit **Examiner Name**

| SHEET 1 of | | | of 1 | of 1 Attorney Docket No. | | PC10483US | | | | |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No.1 | Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (If known) | | | Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | 2 | DE 884 260 (English abstract attached) | | 07 | 07-23-1953 | | Wetzell Gummiwerke AG | | | Ø |
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| Examiner | <u> </u> | | | | <u> </u> | 1 | Date | \dashv | | |
| Signature | | | | | | | Considered | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

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For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.